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COUNTRY Argentina

SUBJECT Alberto Dodero

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1. Alberto Doderó, Argentine shipping magnate who recently returned to Argentina from a six months' visit to Europe and the United States, confided to intimate friends upon his arrival that he intended to make President Peron aware of Argentina's unfavorable situation and to offer his frank opinion on the government's approach to the problem. Since his return, Doderó has been in daily contact with President and Sra. Peron. His views reportedly have been received with interest by Peron, who has asked Doderó to prolong his stay in Argentina so that he may have the benefit of Doderó's ideas and advice. It is believed that Doderó will remain in Argentina indefinitely and since he presumably will be in close contact with the Perons, his influence may possibly be reflected in a change in the administration's commercial and international policies.
2. Doderó's appraisal of Argentina's domestic and international position, in summary, is as follows. When he left Buenos Aires after having sold his shipping interests to the government, he was fairly optimistic about the commercial and political future of the country. The Andes Treaty had been signed, a start had been made on the payment of dollar debts, the Miranda economic regime had been terminated, and the general situation seemed to be fairly good. Upon his return, however, he found the country in a much worse situation than had existed at the time of his departure. Foreign commerce was at a stand-still, IAPI continued to function with all its restrictive controls on free trade, the nationalization program was still going forward, the government's budget and expenditures were expanding, labor was being granted further wage increases, production was diminishing, and the cost of living was increasing. The administration's policy of attacking the free press and fostering investigations has been doing untold damage to Argentina's reputation abroad, particularly in the United States where it is generally believed that Argentina is a totalitarian country in which fundamental liberties do not exist.
3. Doderó would like to see a genuine attempt made to improve political and commercial relations with the United States. To accomplish this, he believes that Argentina will have to start behaving like a democracy. He also favors the removal of restrictive economic controls, thereby returning commerce to private business. He feels there is no hope for the economic future of Argentina so long as IAPI continues to exist.

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